

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION AND ABSTRACT

Please replace the paragraph at page 8, lines 17-22 with the following paragraph:

The platform 14 and the substrate 16 are adapted to be releasably locked together in a connected position, wherein the substrate 16 is supported in a defined configuration on the platform 14. In the exemplary embodiment, the ~~platform 14~~ substrate 16 includes male connectors which engage female connectors integral with the ~~substrate 16~~ platform 14. Figure 2 shows the substrate 16 and the platform 14 in their connected position, while Figure 1 shows the platform 14 without the substrate 16.

Please replace the paragraph at page 11, lines 11-23 with the following paragraph:

The substrate 16 further comprises a pair of detents ~~74~~ 75 and an extension tab 78. The detents ~~74~~ 75 are positioned on the front edge of the tray 50 to engage the retainers 42, so as to prevent the substrate 16 from slipping out the way it was inserted. The extension tab 78 is an extension of the substrate 16 which allows the modeling machine 12 to detect that a tray substrate according to the present invention is mounted in the modeling machine 12. The modeling machine 12 is programmed with a substrate detection routine which identifies the substrate 16 by detecting the extension tab 78, and responsively configures operating parameters of the machine, such as the base layer material, extrusion speed, extrusion temperature and extrusion tip height. This feature is useful where the modeling platform is configured to permit the use of multiple types of substrates, such as a tray substrate and a foam substrate, as it allows the modeling machine to automatically adjust its settings for the detected substrate type.

Please replace the paragraph at page 14, lines 10-20 with the following paragraph:

In use, the substrate 16 is mounted in the modeling machine 12 by placing the substrate 16 on the platform 14, with each of the projections 64 and 70 aligned with the corresponding keyhole 24, 26 or 28. Advantageously, the projections 64 are visible to the user, providing ease of alignment. Initially, the substrate 16 is in a forward position on the platform 14,

allowing the feet of projections 64 and 70 to drop into the openings of keyholes 24 and 28. Then, the user slides the substrate 16 along the platform 14 until all projections are fully seated in the keyholes, thereby engaging the substrate 16 with the platform 14. The user then locks the engaged substrate 16 onto the platform 14, by rotating each retainer 42 upward until the shoulder 46 of the retainer 42 is abutted in the corresponding detents ~~74~~ 75 on the substrate 16.

Please replace the Abstract paragraph at page 26, lines 4-12 with the following paragraph:

A modeling apparatus includes a platform and a substrate, which are adapted to be releasably locked together to provide a surface for building up models in an additive-process three-dimensional modeling machine. The substrate comprises a substantially rigid, non-dusting tray providing a modeling surface. ~~Female~~ Male connectors extending from the tray are seated in ~~male~~ female connectors in the platform, to engage the substrate to the platform. The engaged substrate is locked to the platform, maintaining accurate positioning of the substrate while a model is built. After modeling is complete, the substrate is released from the platform, the model is removed, and the substrate may be reused.